

TAHOE REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY

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January 29, 2007

Ms. Tracie Billington and Ms. Shahla Farahnak
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street, 16th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) Support for SWRCB/DWR
Recommendations to Provide Additional Proposition 50 IRWMP Funding**

Dear Ms. Billington and Ms. Farahnak:

The TRPA would like to express its full support for the "Additional Funding Recommendations for the Allocation of Integrated Regional Water Management Program (IRWMP) Prop 50 Implementation Grant Funds" proposed by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and Department of Water Resources (DWR).

The SWRCB/DWR proposal (as announced at the Public Workshop held in Sacramento on January 23, 2006) would substantially benefit the State and Proposition 50 applicants in the following ways:

- The remaining nine applicants would be able to immediately dedicate funds to their highest priority capital improvement and water quality improvement projects. As these projects have already been critically reviewed by SWRCB/DWR, it is assured that their implementation would achieve important statewide priorities and benefit California's residents. Thus, the SWRCB/DWR proposal would meet the intent of Proposition 50 to improve statewide water infrastructure in a timely manner.
- The SWRCB/DWR proposal would also allow IRWM partnerships to dedicate their staff resources towards the implementation of environmentally beneficial projects rather than towards the writing of future grant applications. If the SWRCB/DWR proposal were not adopted, IRWM partnerships would be compelled to duplicate earlier grant writing efforts, inefficiently expending additional public dollars and valuable staff time. Given this scenario, DWR and SWRCB also would be expected to duplicate their efforts by processing and commenting on applications that have already been reviewed.

These benefits as well as many others were noted in TRPA's December 2006 comment letter to SWRCB and DWR. We appreciate the positive response by both SWRCB and DWR to our original comments. TRPA believes the SWRCB/DWR proposal is a thoughtful strategy that will reward applicants who submitted proposals with merit and validate the substantial collaborative and cooperative efforts made by applicants and staff. We encourage the DWR and SWRCB to finalize these additional recommended funding allocations and look forward to hearing your decision.

Sincerely,



John Singlaub
Executive Director